

ALBUQUERQUE BERNALILLO COUNTY WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY

BILL NO. **F/S R-06-10**

SPONSORED BY:

1

RESOLUTION

2 DECLARING A DROUGHT WATCH FOR ALBUQUERQUE BERNALILLO COUNTY 3 WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY SERVICE AREA UNTIL NOVEMBER 1, 2006.

4 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque metropolitan area has received little to no
5 precipitation from October 2005 through May 2006; and

6 WHEREAS, the National Weather Service is predicting continuing dry conditions
7 in the Middle Rio Grande; and

8 WHEREAS, a Drought Management Strategy was developed by a Task Force
9 under City Council Resolution R-137 Enactment No. 4-2001 that consisted of a diverse
10 group of interests; and

11 WHEREAS, the Drought Task Force worked to develop the Drought
12 Management Strategy premised on the need to preserve and protect the aquifer; and

13 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Authority)
14 adopted the Drought Management Strategy on January 1, 2004 under the
15 Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Albuquerque; and

16 WHEREAS, the Drought Management Strategy is intended to preserve and
17 protect the aquifer and also to meet water conservation goals during a drought; and

18 WHEREAS, the Drought Management Strategy provides for establishing four
19 levels of drought entitled the Drought Advisory, Drought Watch, Drought Warning, and
20 Drought Emergency; and

21 WHEREAS, the Drought Management Strategy provides a menu of education,
22 voluntary and mandatory measures that could be implemented to reduce water usage
23 during a drought; and

24 WHEREAS, under Permit No. 4830 from the Office of the State Engineer
25 requires that the Authority reduce overall usage to less than 175 gallons per capita; and

1 WHEREAS, customer water usage has increased as compared to last year more
2 than 1.2 billion gallons since January 1, 2006; and

3 WHEREAS, the lack of precipitation is anticipated to continue for several more
4 months in anticipate of the monsoon season which usually begins around July 15th; and

5 WHEREAS, the Authority adopted the Drought Advisory at the March 15, 2006
6 meeting and implemented a series of drought management measures aimed at
7 reducing demand; and

8 WHEREAS, implementing additional drought management measures will assist
9 in reducing water usage during the current drought.

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE AUTHORITY:

11 Section 1. Drought Watch Declaration. The Authority hereby declares a
12 Drought Watch and directs the Executive Director to implement the measures in
13 Sections 2 through 5 by July 1, 2006 including the following:

14 A. Additional Drought Education and Public Awareness Program; and
15 B. Continue to alert the Public to the Existing Water Conservation
16 Rebate Programs.

17 Section 2. Mandatory Watering. Outdoor watering with the exception of drip
18 systems for vegetable gardens shall be no more than three days a week instituted on an
19 Even/Odd program.

20 Public or private parks, golf courses, and athletic use facilities at schools shall be
21 exempted from the Even/Odd program but must submit a watering schedule to the
22 Water Resources Division. Short-term emergency situations or community impacts to
23 turf or landscapes at these facilities that require varying from watering schedules will be
24 exempted by notification to the Water Resources Division.

25 Section 3. Drought Surcharge. Double the existing summer water usage
26 surcharge at the 400% level above average winter usage beginning July 1, 2006
27 excluding those residential customers that use four units or less during the winter
28 months (average winter usage).

29 Section 4. Drought Water Waste Fees. The existing water waste fees shall be
30 doubled.

31 A. The Executive Director shall increase water waste enforcement
32 staff and provide additional education on water theft.

1 Section 5. Additional Drought Measures. The Executive Director and staff
2 shall develop a list of additional measures that could be implemented as necessary to
3 reduce overall usage in accordance with the Drought Management Strategy attached as
4 Exhibit 1.

5 Section 6. Water Usage and Drought Update. The Executive Director and staff
6 shall provide an update on overall water usage at the next regularly scheduled meeting
7 of the Authority. In addition, the staff shall provide a status report on the drought and
8 make recommendations when and if a Drought Warning should be implemented.

9 At the meeting in August 2006, the Executive Director and staff shall report on
10 the status of water usage, precipitation and estimates of the amount of water usage for
11 the remaining portion of the year.

12 Section 7. The Drought Watch shall remain in effect until repealed by the
13 Authority or until November 1, 2006.